

Five-Day Devotional: The Kingdom of God is received through humble, dependent faith.

So many people believe they have to fix themselves before coming to God. But the gospel tells a different story. This 5-day devotional based on the sermon “Unhindered,” explores childlike faith, dependence on grace, and the freedom of being fully loved by God—not because of performance, but because of His mercy. Come as you are and discover the beauty of belonging to Him.

Day 1: Come as You Are**Devotional**

Have you ever felt like you needed to clean up your act before approaching God? Maybe you thought you had to pray more, read your Bible consistently, or get your life together first. This thinking couldn't be further from the truth. When Jesus welcomed the children, He wasn't looking at their accomplishments or moral track record. He saw hearts that naturally understood their need for care and protection. Children don't pretend to have it all figured out - they simply come as they are. God invites us to approach Him the same way. You don't need to impress Him with your spiritual performance or wait until you feel worthy enough. He already knows your struggles, your failures, and your brokenness, and He loves you completely. The beautiful truth is that God's love isn't based on what you bring to the table, but on His character and grace. Today, remember that you can come to God exactly as you are - messy, imperfect, and in need of His love.

Bible Verse

'And he said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'" - Mark 10:14 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

What barriers have you created in your mind that make you feel unworthy to approach God?

Quote

Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them. For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Prayer

Father, thank You that I can come to You just as I am, without pretense or performance. Help me to embrace the truth that Your love for me isn't based on what I do, but on who You are.

Day 2: The Gift of Dependence

Devotional

Our culture celebrates independence and self-reliance, but Jesus turns this value system upside down. When we watch children, we see beautiful dependence - they naturally trust their parents for provision, protection, and love. They don't negotiate or try to earn their place in the family; they simply receive what's freely given. This is the posture God desires from us. Admitting our need for God isn't weakness; it's wisdom. It's recognizing that we were created for relationship with our heavenly Father, not for isolated self-sufficiency. When we try to approach God through our own strength and achievements, we miss the point entirely. The kingdom belongs to those who understand they cannot sustain themselves apart from God's grace. Your dependence on God isn't something to overcome - it's something to embrace. It's in acknowledging our need that we position ourselves to receive His abundant provision and love.

Bible Verse

'Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' - Mark 10:15 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life are you trying to be self-sufficient instead of depending on God?

Quote

Children are naturally dependent, trusting, humble, aware of need. That is the posture of saving faith.

Prayer

Lord, help me to embrace my dependence on You as a gift, not a weakness. Teach me to trust You like a child trusts their loving parent.

Day 3: Grace Over Performance

Devotional

There's something deeply ingrained in human nature that wants to earn our way to acceptance. We see it everywhere - in our relationships, our careers, and unfortunately, even in our approach to God. But grace shatters this performance-based mindset completely. Grace means you cannot work your way into God's favor, and you cannot lose it through your failures. It's a gift that must be received, not achieved. Think about how exhausting it would be if children had to earn their parents' love every day through good behavior. The relationship would be built on anxiety rather than security. God doesn't want that kind of relationship with you. He wants you to rest in His unconditional love and acceptance. When you truly understand grace, it becomes both humbling and liberating. Humbling because it removes any room for boasting about your spiritual achievements. Liberating because it frees you from the endless cycle of trying to prove your worth. Today, let grace be enough.

Bible Verse

'For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.' - Ephesians 2:8-9 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

How has trying to earn God's approval affected your relationship with Him?

Quote

You cannot flex your way into grace, cannot achieve your way into mercy. It's a gift expected to be received.

Prayer

God, thank You for the gift of grace that I could never earn or deserve. Help me to rest in Your love rather than strive for Your approval.

Day 4: Adopted into Love

Devotional

Adoption is one of the most beautiful pictures of grace we can imagine. When a child is adopted, they bring nothing to the table - no money, no achievements, no ability to contribute to the family. Yet they receive a name, an inheritance, and unconditional love. This is exactly how God's kingdom works. You don't negotiate your way into God's family or earn your place through good deeds. You simply receive the love that's freely offered. The child doesn't wonder if they're worthy of adoption - they simply accept the love being given. God has chosen you, not because of what you can do for Him, but because of His great love for you. You are His beloved child, welcomed into His family not through your performance but through His grace. This truth should fill you with both humility and confidence - humility because you know you didn't earn it, and confidence because nothing can change your status as His child.

Bible Verse

'But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God' - John 1:12 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

How does understanding your adoption into God's family change the way you see yourself and your relationship with Him?

Quote

A child does not negotiate an adoption. A child receives love they could never provide for themselves through an adoption. That is the picture of grace.

Prayer

Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family through Your grace. Help me to live with the confidence and security that comes from being Your beloved child.

Day 5: You Are Worth It

Devotional

Perhaps you've walked through life believing the lie that you're too broken, too sinful, or too far gone for God's love. Maybe past mistakes or present struggles have convinced you that a holy God could never want someone like you. But here's the truth that changes everything: God Himself became human and walked this earth, experiencing every temptation and struggle you face. He willingly went to the cross, not because you had proven your worth, but because you already were worth it to Him. Your brokenness doesn't disqualify you from God's love - it's exactly why He came. The people most ready for grace are often those most aware of their need for it. God's heart is to restore all of creation back to its original design, and that includes you. No matter what you've done or what's been done to you, you are not too broken for God's grace. He sees you, He loves you, and He has made a way for you to come home to Him.

Bible Verse

'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.' - Mark 2:17 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

What lies about your worth or brokenness do you need to surrender to God's truth today?

Quote

I can tell you a holy God submitted himself to be fully human and walk in this life and be slung up on a cross after suffering the wrath of flesh and being put to death. Because you are worthy and worth it.

Prayer

Lord, help me to see myself through Your eyes and to believe that I am worth Your love and sacrifice. Heal the places where I've believed lies about my value to You.